

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) A modular animal enclosure comprising a base portion and a top portion attached to the base portion to form a housing with a sheltered interior and a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior, wherein the top portion is configured to be hinged to the base portion to facilitate access to the interior by pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a first direction by at least one hinge pin which projects through respective first hinge apertures in the base portion and in the top portion on a first side of the housing, wherein the base portion and top portion further comprise respective second hinge apertures on a second side of the housing opposite the first side so that the hinge pin can be alternately inserted through the second hinge apertures to facilitate access to the interior by pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a second direction, and wherein the top portion and base portions each further comprise respective flanges which form first and second interference latches on the respective first and second sides of the housing so that the first interference latch impedes initiation of said rotation in the second direction and so that the second interference latch impedes initiation of said rotation in the first direction.

23. (Original) The animal enclosure of claim 22, wherein the top portion is sized to nest within the base portion when the top portion is inverted.

Claim 24-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Previously presented) A modular animal enclosure comprising:
a base portion comprising first and second pin apertures and first and second flange portions respectively adjacent the first and second pin apertures;
a top portion configured to mate with the base portion to form a housing with a sheltered interior and a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior, the top portion comprising third and fourth pin apertures and third and fourth flange portions respectively adjacent the third and fourth pin apertures; and
a hinge pin configured for insertion through the respective first and third apertures to facilitate rotational movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a first direction to facilitate access to the interior, the hinge pin further configured for alternative insertion through the respective second and fourth apertures to facilitate rotational movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a second direction opposite the first direction to facilitate access to the interior, wherein the second and fourth flange portions form an interference latch to impede initiation of said rotation in the first direction when the hinge pin is inserted through the first and third pin apertures, and wherein the first and third flange portions form an interference latch to impede initiation of said rotation in

the second direction when the hinge pin is inserted through the second and fourth pin apertures.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the first and second flange portions extend outwardly in a direction away from the interior, and wherein the third and fourth flange portions are each characterized as a retention tab which extends inwardly in a direction toward the interior, each retention tab configured to extend below the respective first and second flange portion.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein upon said rotational movement of the top portion with respect to the bottom portion in the first direction, the fourth flange portion rotates down and away in a clearing relation from the second flange portion so that said rotational movement of the top portion in the first direction is not impeded by said fourth flange portion, and wherein upon said rotational movement of the top portion with respect to the bottom portion in the second direction, the third portion rotates down and away in a clearing relation from the first flange portion so that said rotational movement of the top portion in the second direction is not impeded by said third flange portion.

34. (New) The animal enclosure of claim 22, further comprising a climate conditioning unit configured to be contactingly supported on the top portion to facilitate a flow of atmospheric air through a climate conditioning aperture in the top portion to the sheltered interior.

35. (New) The animal enclosure of claim 31, further comprising a climate conditioning unit configured to be contactingly supported on the top portion to facilitate a flow of atmospheric air through a climate conditioning aperture in the top portion to the sheltered interior.